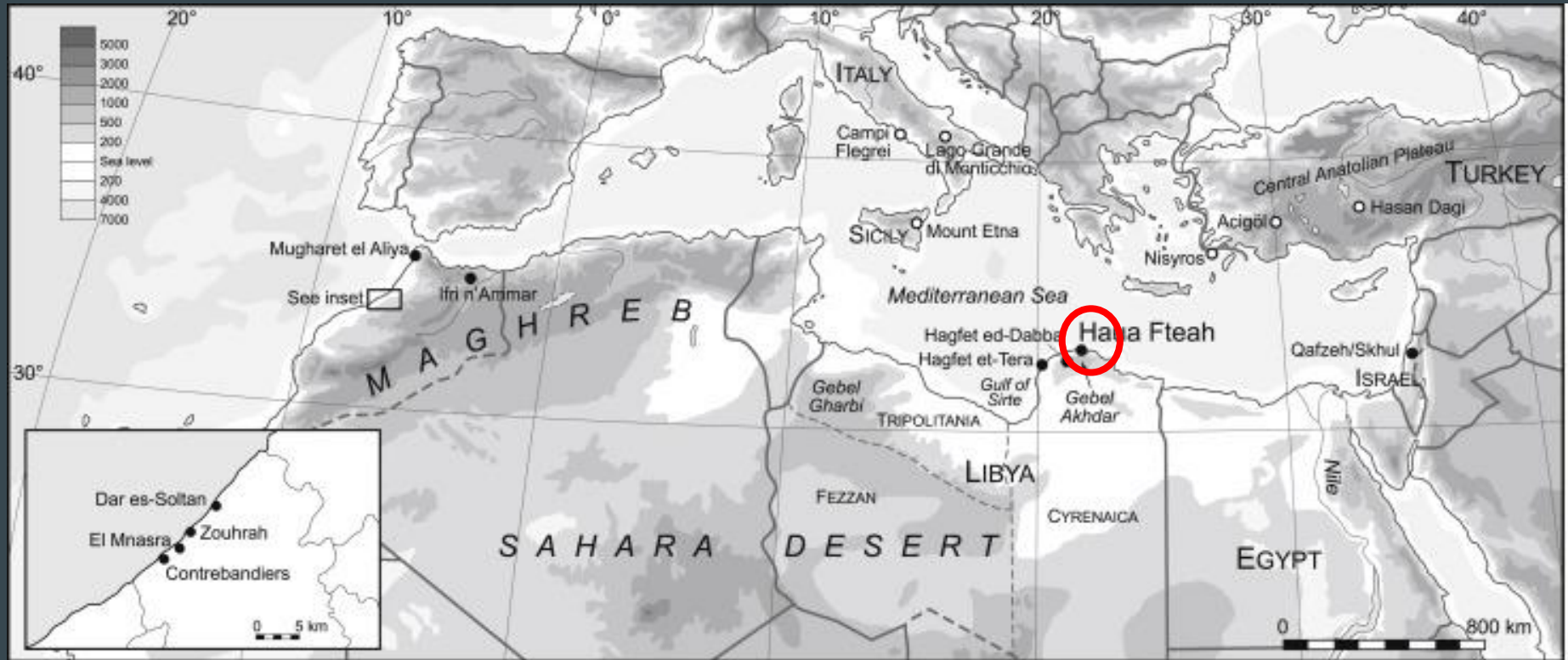


Haua Fteah

By: Isabelle Rutherford

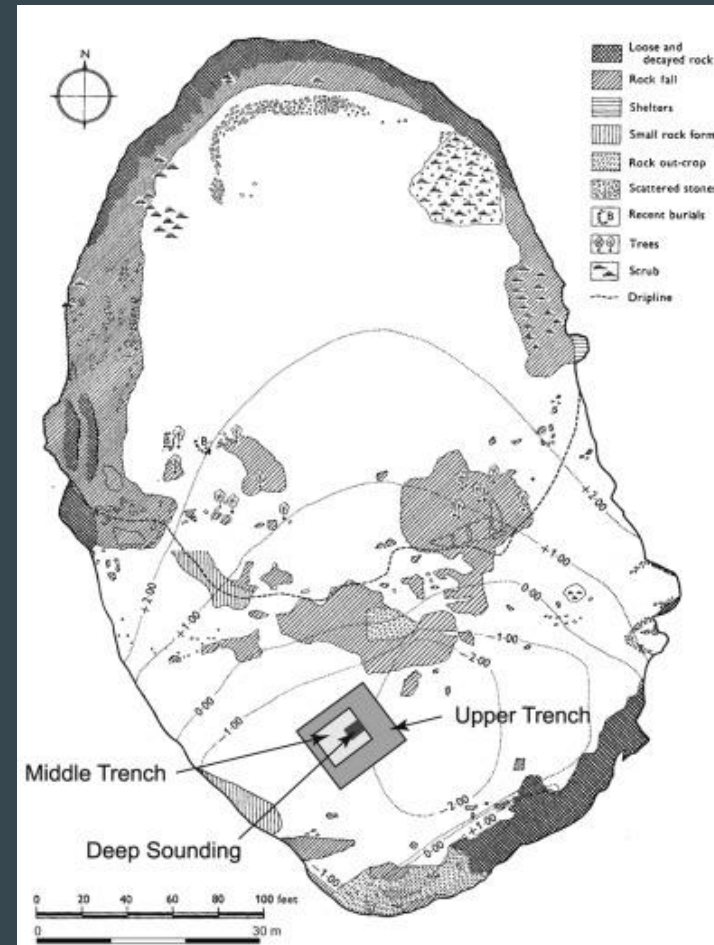


Site Overview



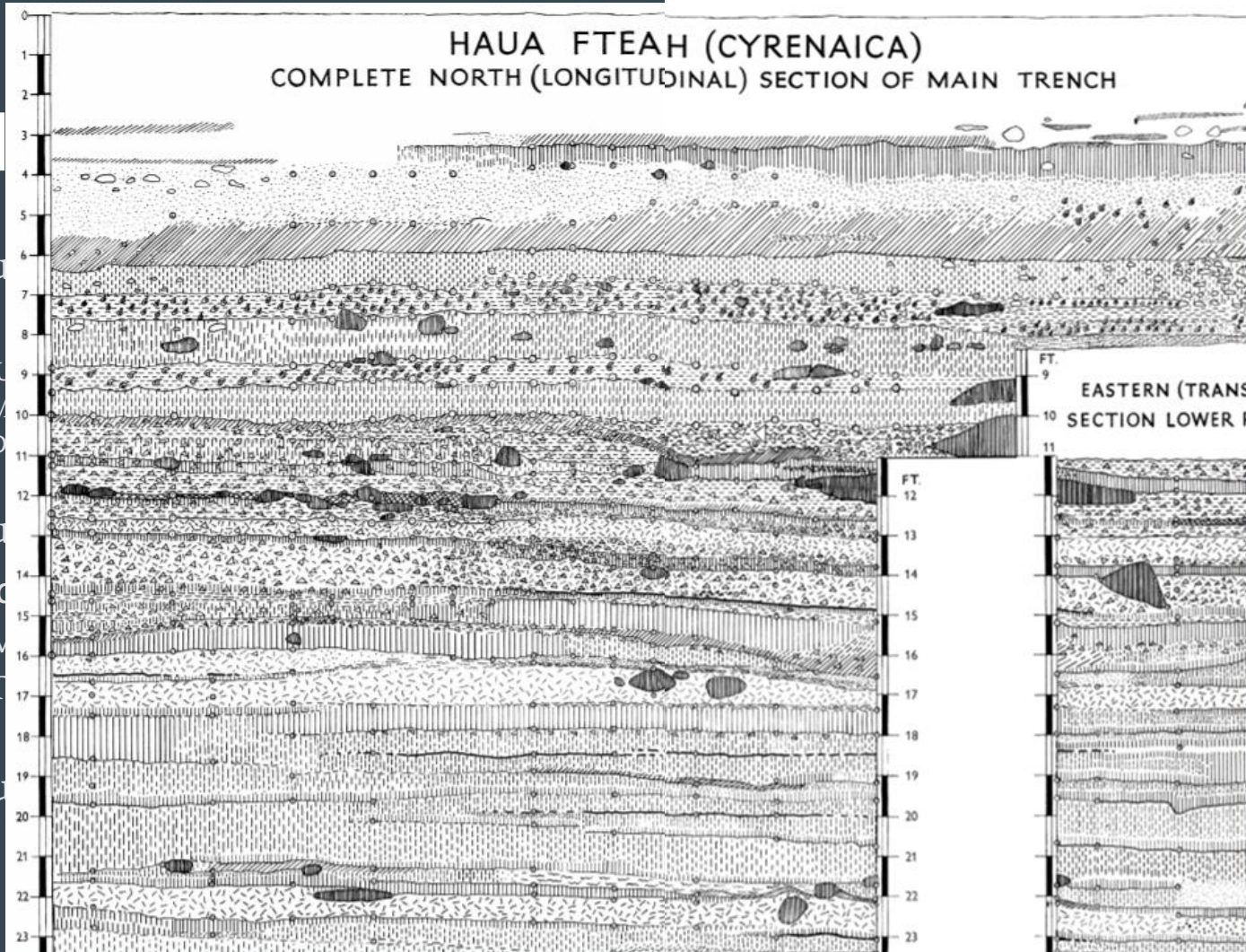
Excavation: 1950's

Originally excavated by Charles McBurney between 1951 and 1955



Method

- McBurney units
 - U
 - M
 - D
- McBurney (wood)
 - M
 - T
- Product

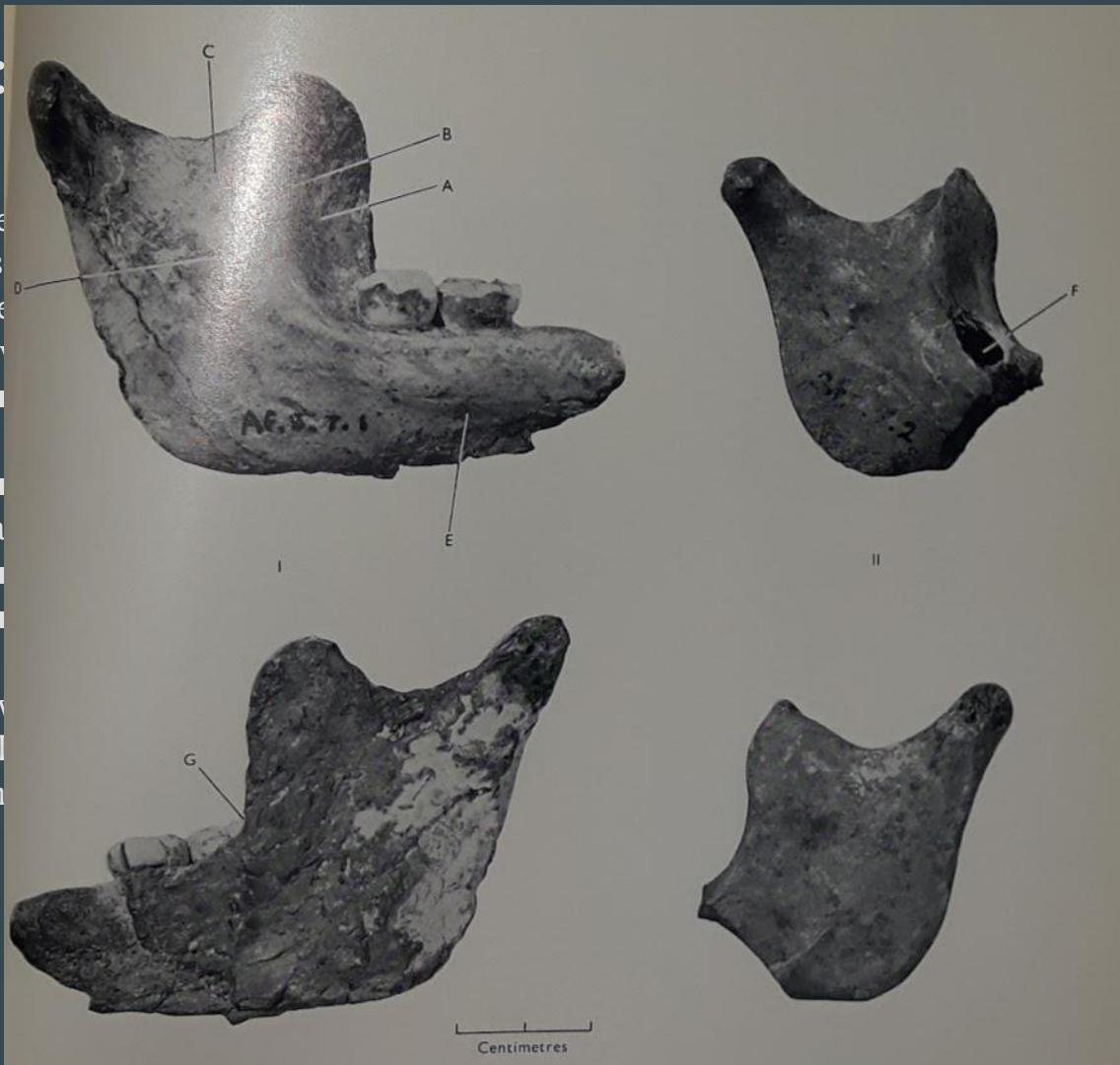


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FINDS:

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Cyrenia Prehistory Project: 2007 -

- Main goal is the re-evaluation of the site using modern archaeological techniques and approaches.
- More intensive recovery techniques
 - Created three new trenches along the lengths of McBurney's trenches
 - All sediments excavated are bagged, floated, and sieved through to get at all archaeological materials larger than 2mm.
- At last publication, had not linked the trenches (image)

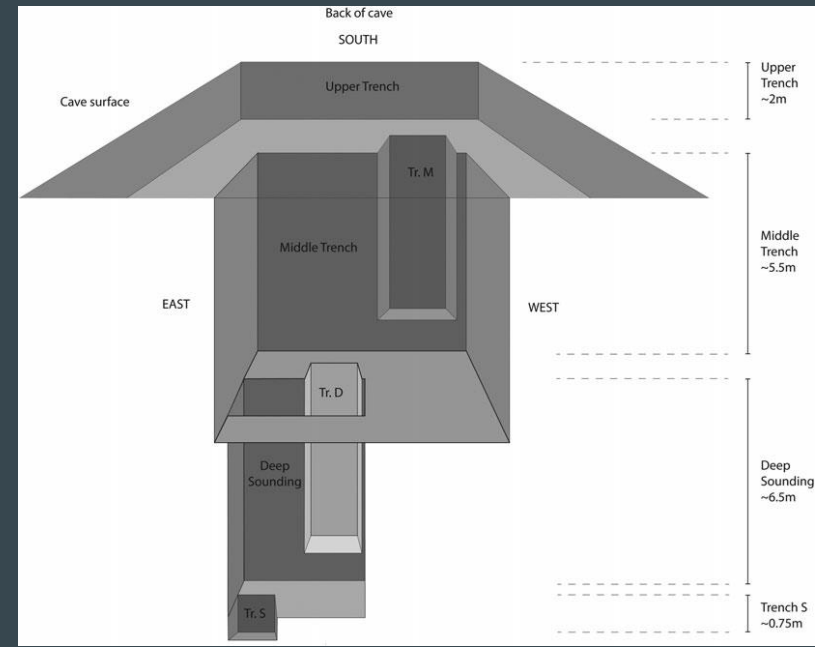


Figure 1. Schematic illustration of the McBurney trench in the Haua Fteah, illustrating the positions of CPP Trenches M, D, and S, and their extent at the end of the 2013 fieldwork (drawing: S. Jones, L. Farr).

Importance of the Site and Main Questions

1. Timing of AMH colonization of North Africa
2. Human responses to climatic instability of MIS 4, 3 and 2.
3. Timing and routes of dispersal of domesticates in the Early Holocene



Past Environments and Dating

- Deep sequence of human occupation (Greco-Roman to at least the Middle Paleolithic)
 - First human occupation around MIS5c (humid period) around 130 - 74 Kya
 - The bottom of the deep sounding trench had not yet been dated in 2014 (results of OSL dates) so authors used formation processes to posit this date (and its location in relation to other securely dated levels)
- A lot of focus has been on establishing dates for McBurney's Levels
 - C 14, OSL, ESR
- Generally, studies have kept with McBurney's initial assessment of the cultures present and have simply refined the dates using modern techniques
- Plenty of studies have used Haua Fteah to look at paleoclimates
 - One in particular suggested that the region Haua Fteah is located in (Gebel Akhdar) may have served as a refugium during extreme aridity of MIS 2 – Others have identified a slightly population increase at this time

Current Research

- Seasons often impacted by civil unrest - the site is a few hundred kms from Benghazi
- As far as what has been published, the last season was in 2013 - the last published report is from 2014
- Some studies have been done on previously excavated material in the intervening years
- Near imposible to find any current news or information about the state of the site in recent years.

Recycling - Hiscock(2015)

- Study focussed on recycling of scraper and burins during 70-15,000 BP(ie retouching into new morphology)
 - Rates high during Middle and Upper Paleolithic, lower during epi-paleolithic
 - Author argues that this indicates that industries structured around reworking/recycling or formalized implement forms, are not necessarily a result of cognitive complexity or 'modern behaviour'
- Author suggest that this is a result of a shift to craft specialization and functional specificity in tool use
 - Tool standardization and 'imposed form'



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